## Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02093 241345Z ACTION IO-06

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R 241345Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1532
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: WFC, AORG, APER

SUBJECT: UN PERSONNEL: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

DIRECTOR

REFS: (A) USUN 1672 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 129287, (C) ROME 9395

1. DURING CALL ON SYG WALDHEIM MORNING MAY 23, AMBASSADOR LEONARD REFERRED TO SECRETARY MAYNES' DISCUSSION DURING APRIL 21 MEETING WITH SYG ON APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAMS AS WFC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. LEONARD RECALLED MAYNES' EXPRESSION OF CONCERN FOR APPROPRIATE US REPRESENTATION IN "FOOD" SECTORS OF UN SYSTEM.

2. WALDHEIM REPLIED THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT WILLIAMS IS "EXCELLENT CANDIDATE." HE SAID TANCO HAD CALLED SEVERAL TIMES SUPPORTING WILLIAMS FOR APPOINTMENT AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND AHMED AS DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEANTIME JAMAICAN AMBASSADOR MILLS HAD CONVEYED TO SYG REQUEST OF ROME G-77 TO APPOINT LDC NATIONAL TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POST. MILLS HAD FOLLOWED UP THIS INITIAL NOTIFICATION WITH FURTHER LETTER ADVISING SYG THAT NEW YORK ASIAN AND LATIN AMERICAN GROUPS HAD ENDORSED ROME G-77 REQUEST.

- 3. RAFEEUDDIN AHMED, SYG EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, POINTED OUT THAT SYG MUST MAKE APPOINTMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL SAOUMA AND G-77. SINCE G-77 HAS ABSOLUTE MAJORITY ON BOARD OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, SYG WISHES TO AVOID SITUATION IN WHICH HIS APPOINTMENT MIGHT MEET WITH REBUFF.
- 4. WALDHEIM SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THE SITUATION WITH SAOUMA LAST WEEKEND IN GENEVA AND THAT SAOUMA ("WHO WAS BEING REASONABLE, FOR ONCE") SAID HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAMS. SYG SAID HE MUST BE CERTAIN THAT BOARD AGREES TO WILLIAMS APPOINTMENT. MATTER WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH TANCO, WHO SCHEDULED TO VISIT NEW YORK MAY 30 AND WHO WILL SOUND OUT WFC BOARD IN INTERIM.
- 5. WALDHEIM NOTED THAT UK ALSO HAS PRESENTED HIGH RANKING CANDIDATE (KEARNES) WHO IS VERY INTERESTED IN JOB AND HAS STRONG SUPPORT OF HIS GOVERNMENT. WALDHEIM SAID THAT IF KEARNES IS NOT APPOINTED TO WFC POST, UK WILL BE QUITE PUT OUT IF US NATIONALS ARE APPOINTED BOTH TO WFC POSTS AND ASYG FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT. YOUNG

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